

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 122633

FOLLOWING REPEAT BRUSSELS 4526 ACTION SECSTATE INFO NATO
21 MAY

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 4526

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN PROPOSAL ON AN INTEGRATED EUROPEAN ARMS IND-
USTRY

REF: A. BRUSSELS 4486 BBB.. OLSEN-MANGER TELCON

1. SUPPLEMENTING REF A RUNDOWN OF TOPICS WHICH WILL
INTEREST TINDEMANS IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT, WE CALL
YOUR ATTENTION HERewith TO BELGIAN PROPOSAL MADE MAY 20
AT WEU MINISTERIAL MEETING IN LONDON WHEREIN TINDEMANS'
CURRENT THINKING ON INTEGRATED ARMAMENTS INDUSTRY
AND SO-CALLED EUROPEAN PREFERENCE WERE SET FORTH IN
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SOME DETAIL. TINDEMANS MAY WELL

DEVELOP THIS LINE OF THOUGHT IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY.

2. AT LONDON WEU MEETING FORNMINISTER VAN ELSLANDE, WHO WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF WEU MINISTERIAL GROUP VICE CALLAGHAN, PROPOSED THAT WEU SET UP AT ONCE AN AD HOC GROUP "TO ASSEMBLE AND COLLATE THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL DATA REGARDING THE INTEGRATION OF THE EUROPEAN DEFENSE INDUSTRY." VAN ELSLANDE PROPOSED THIS AS FIRST STEP IN A PROCESS WHICH WOULD CULMINATE IN FORMATION OF A EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS AGENCY. WEU MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DID NOT ACT ON BELGIAN PROPOSAL TO SET UP AD HOC GROUP BUT DID AGREE TO STUDY THE VAN ELSLANDE PAPER. AN OUTLINE OF THAT PAPER, MADE AVAILABLE BY FORNMINISTRY HERE, IS SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS.

3. STANDARDIZATION OF ARMAMENTS BY THE ATLANTIC ALLIES IS AN URGENT NECESSITY, AS IS THE MAINTENANCE OF "A VIABLE AND COMPETITIVE ARMAMENTS INDUSTRY" IN EUROPE. ARMS STANDARDIZATION MAKES SENSE ONLY IN A NATO CONTEXT AND WITH PARTICIPATION OF ALL EUROPEAN ARMS-PRODUCING COUNTRIES. THIS RAISES THE QUESTION OF THE MISSION AND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUROGROUP, SPECIFICALLY FRENCH MEMBERSHIP. THE EUROGROUP SHOULD ADDRESS ITSELF WITHOUT DELAY TO CLARIFICATION OF ITS ROLE IN THE WESTERN DEFENSE EFFORT.

4. EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SHOULD SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO A EUROPEAN ARMS INDUSTRY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CREATION OF A COMMON INDUSTRIAL POLICY FOR EC. "THE EUROPEAN SOLUTION SHOULD TAKE, WE BELIEVE, THE FORM OF A EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS AGENCY WHICH WOULD HAVE FOR ITS MISSION, IN CLOSE LIAISON WITH EC INSTITUTIONS AND THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, THE DEFINITION AND EXECUTION OF A COMMON INDUSTRIAL POLICY WITH RESPECT TO ARMAMENTS." BELGIUM ENVISIONS THE COMMON ARMS POLICY FINDING EXPRESSION IN RATIONALIZATION AGREEMENTS BOTH BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND BETWEEN INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES.

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5. EUROPE WILL IN ANY CASE CONTINUE TO ACQUIRE AN IMPORTANT PART OF ITS ARMS FROM THE U.S. EUROPE MUST NOT CUT ITSELF OFF FROM AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY. IT SHOULD STRIVE TO CREATE A TWO-WAY TRANSATLANTIC STREET IN ARMAMENTS WITH TRAFFIC AS NEARLY EVENLY BALANCED AS POSSIBLE. EUROPE SHOULD ESTABLISH A DIALOGUE WITH U.S. ON THIS MATTER. "BUT FIRST OF ALL ONE MUST DEFINE

A EUROEPAN ARMS PRODUCTION POLICY. ONE MUST ESTABLISH
THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH A "EUROPEAN PREFERENCE"
WOULD COME INTO PLAY." BELGIUM PROPOSES AN AD HOC
GROUP IN WEU, WHICH INCLUDES ALL PRINCIPLE EUROPEAN
ARMS PRODUCERS, TO START THE SPADEWORK. FIRESTONE
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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